Conservation Connections



Missouri Department of Conservation St. Louis Regional Newsletter

February 2010

Discover Nature Schools

By Liz Lyons, MDC Conservation Education Supervisor

I must have been told about the concept of seed dispersal inside a classroom. At some point in time, the term probably came up on a vocabulary list, and was explained in a textbook. Yet I don't remember any of that.

What I do remember about seed dispersal was when our teacher took us outside and let us blow the seeds of dandelion fuzz all over the playground. Then she encouraged us to observe and experiment with more seed dispersal: maple seeds became helicopters, swirling in the wind as they fell which drilled them into the ground; squirrels picked up acorns and buried them all over the schoolyard. Watching the seed dispersal in action outside my school building was far more interesting, memorable, and educational than trying to learn that concept from a text book. Not only did I probably answer my test questions on seed dispersal better, but I also gained an appreciation and understanding of my schoolyard trees after connecting with them that day.

For this reason and many others, the Missouri Department of Conservation has developed the Discover Nature Schools program. It provides free, state standards-aligned instructional units (both teacher guides and student booklets) that bring Missouri students outdoors with help from field trips and learning materials grants. Two units are currently available: *Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems* (for middle schools), and *Nature Unleashed* (for grades 3 – 5). A high school unit will be available next year, and early elementary and preschool units will follow. Students can start their outdoor observations and investigations at their school, and then take a field trip with the transportation grant money to continue their investigations at a local natural area such as a conservation area or park.

There has been so much news lately about our children's disconnection from nature and what that means for their health and well-being. This program can help build those connections, support science-learning in a personal, hands-on way, and develop an appreciation for what it takes to conserve healthy nature and life outdoors. All Discover Nature units are aligned with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's standards for learning at the appropriate grade levels, and come with training and funding to help schools get the resources they need to conduct the units. The books are free to Missouri teachers, and can be ordered in bulk or downloaded and printed off of our website.

Please pass the word along to your local school boards, principals, and teachers. Help Missouri students Discover Nature. To learn more you can contact your local conservation education consultant (http://mdc.mo.gov/teacher/contacts/) or visit the Discover Nature Schools page at http://mdc.mo.gov/teacher/los/.

















Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

6 Will you be my Mammaltine?

Saturday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 6 - 12) I'm a mammal, you're a mammal, and so is that bear out there! It's the time of year for warm and fuzzy thoughts for each other but we can also share our love for

Missouri mammals. Join us for an interactive program about mammals and how they stay cozy all year with warm coats and neat tricks like hibernation. We will read a book about our furry friends and also make a "mammaltine" to take home. (Reservations begin January 23.)



6 Valentine for the Birds

Saturday 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

(Ages 6 & up) I hope my valentine has chocolate in it, but if I were a bird I would want a suet cake! We will make blocks of suet that you can take home. They will fit in a suet cage if you have one or you can hang them from a tree with string or wire. All materials will be provided. (Reservations begin January 23.)

20 Singles Trek

Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Singles 21 & up) Don't let the title fool you. This isn't an arduous journey. Exploring Columbia Bottom is a great way to get outdoors and meet people of like interests. We'll actually track, not trek, the animals that live and migrate through here, looking for clues they leave behind. Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes as we may go off the beaten path. Bring binoculars, if you like. (Reservations begin February 3.)



21 Confluence Quilters/Crafters

Sunday 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 10 & up) Confluence Quilter/Crafters is celebrating winter as we create the second of four seasonal quilt blocks to be put together to make an original wall hanging. After a short walk outdoors to be inspired by nature, we will head inside to explore the shapes and colors of winter. Enjoy refreshments and share your ideas for design possibilities to create a winter quilt block. This is the second of four blocks celebrating the seasons, but if you missed the first program, you can still get in on the fun. Patterns will be provided or you may come up with your own inspired design. For those who made a fall block, bring it to show. (Reservations begin February 7.)



27 Coyotes Howling at the Full Snow Moon

Saturday 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 6 & up) Did you know that coyotes play an important role in the wildlife community? Do you know why they howl? When is a good time to hear them? Learn these and other interesting facts about coyotes. Examine a coyote pelt and feel their sharp teeth in a skull. After we discuss the answers to our questions about the "little prairie wolves," as Lewis and Clark called them, we will take a short hike in the crisp, clear winter night to listen for their howling on the prairie under a full snow moon. We'll return to the Visitor Center to warm up with hot beverages. (Reservations begin February 13.)

Volunteer Milestones Andra Stanley 1000 hours Craig Vincent 1000 hours

DISCOVER

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area 2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch/

13 Dresser Island Hike

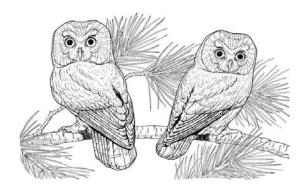
Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(Adults) Where is there a place in winter that you can hike along a big river and see pelicans, ducks, eagles, hawks, gulls, herons, turkey, deer, muskrat houses, beaver lodges many small birds, and possibly trumpeter swans? It all sounds impossible, but it's right in your backyard at Dresser Island Conservation Area near West Alton in St. Charles County. Join this 6 ½ mile hike along the Mississippi River to enjoy the winter and wildlife scenery. (Reservations begin January 29.)

19 Owl Prowl

Friday 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Families) Who's awake when you're sleeping? Come learn about the owls in Missouri, their behaviors and habitat. We'll take a short hike to try to call some close to us (Reservations begin February 5.)



20 & 27 Discover Nature – Families: **Orienteering with Map and Compass**

20 - Saturday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 27 - Saturday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

(Families with children ages 10 & up) Join this two-part program for an unforgettable family experience! On Day 1, your family will first learn map contour lines/intervals and how to adjust for declination on a topographic map. Then it's teamwork time! You'll test your new skills as you head out on a 2 to 3 mile off-trail trek with the group and Naturalist through the Busch Conservation Area. After one week, you'll come back for Day 2. Your family will get a quick refresher of orienteering skills, and then it's up to your family team to find your way in the dark of night using flashlights and laser pointers to navigate off-trail with the group and Naturalist! Talk about unforgettable! (Reservations begin February 5.)

27 Grow Native at Home

Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Adults) It's time to start thinking about spring gardening projects. Have you considered growing native plants? Naturally resilient native grasses, sedges, forbs, shrubs, vines, and trees are great for home landscaping. They solve common gardening problems and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and other wildlife. Come and learn how to put native plants to work in your home landscape. (Reservations begin February 11.)

Congratulations! - Gladys Kullman

Gladys Kullman, Conservation Naturalist - Volunteer since 1992 with over 2,500 hours of service, is the recent **Conservation Award** recipient from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The DAR is a national non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization founded in 1890 dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Gladys received this award in response to her immense impact from programs she has provided such as Wild Edibles, Natural Fabric and Egg Dyeing, Wildflower Walks and many more. Gladys feels that "this award it is a tribute to not only me but to the Conservation Department for the work they do."



Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

6 Maple Sugar Festival

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(All Ages) It's that time of year again to join us and learn how we make some maple sugar magic happen right here in Missouri! Watch as we magically transform Rockwoods Reservation into a sappy woodland maple syrup factory. Visit our sugar bush, where you'll see firsthand a grove of sugar maples tapped collecting precious sugary sap. Then head over to our "sugar shack" where you'll witness the magic of tree sap turning into mouth-watering syrup. There will be chances for you and your family to learn what it takes, from identifying a sugar maple tree to the equipment needed, to make your own tasty syrup for your kitchen table. Of course, the day wouldn't be complete without the chance to taste some of Rockwoods' own maple syrup. It's a day your whole family will enjoy. Please Note: In case of extreme weather, this event will be canceled. (No reservations required.)



17 Nature's Stepping Stones

Wednesday 10 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 5-8) Help your child connect to the outdoors! We will collect natural objects and use them to create a natural stepping stone to take home. Please bring any of your own nature items to personalize your stone. (Reservations begin February 3.)

17 Homeschool Special: Maple Sugaring

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us as we embark on a Missouri tradition: maple sugaring. We will learn the history of maple sugaring, visit the Sugar Bush to collect sap and learn how to boil it down into syrup. Of course, you'll also get the chance to enjoy samples of Rockwoods' own maple syrup! This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller-accessible. (Reservations begin February 4.)



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20 Grow Native at Home

Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Adults) It's time to start thinking about spring gardening projects. Have you considered growing native plants? Naturally resilient native grasses, sedges, forbs, shrubs, vines and trees are great for home landscaping. They solve common gardening problems and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds and other wildlife. Come and learn how to put native plants to work in your home landscape. (Reservations begin February 5.)

Busch Shooting Range
and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304
Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.
Visit http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch/

9, 10 Basic Shotgun

Tuesday & Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) This program is designated for new shotgun shooters. It starts with the basics and continues from there. Our primary emphasis will be safety but we will cover shotgun types, ammunition, shooting stance, lead and proper technique. The first night will be conducted in the classroom at the Busch main office and the second part will be at the range for some hands-on experience. You may bring your own shotgun or we can supply the firearms. (Reservations begin January 9.)

12 Holiday - Range Closed 15 Holiday - Range Closed

16 Firearm Care & Cleaning

Tuesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 & up) One of the most important aspects of having firearms and being responsible is making sure your firearm is maintained. We will discuss cleaning equipment and the proper techniques needed to clean different types of



firearms. After a discussion there will be stations set up for handson experience in cleaning pistols. shotguns, and rifles. (Reservations begin January 16.)

18, 20 Discover Nature: Women -Pheasant Clinic/Hunt

Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. (Ages 14 & up) This is a program for women who want to learn the skills needed for hunting pheasant or want to improve their skills.

Thursday night's clinic will be held in the

classroom to discuss habitat, different firearms, clothing, and hunting techniques with an emphasis on safety. Saturday's

hunt will be at Busch Range in the field for a real

hunting experience that will test your new skills. You must participate in the clinic and be Hunter Education certified to be eligible for the hunt. Participants ages 14 – 17 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin January 18.)

24 Discover Hunting -**Reloading Metallic Cartridges**

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) This program will cover all aspects of reloading rifle and handgun cartridges, equipment, components and safety. (Reservations begin January 24.)

25 Discover Hunting -Shotshell Reloading

Thursday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Join us to learn how to reload your shotgun shells. We will cover equipment, components (powder, shot, and primers) and what hulls work best. (Reservations begin January 25.)

NEW HOURS for the Busch Shooting Range

As many of you know the Busch Shooting range installed lights on all of its ranges about three years ago. This was to provide more opportunities for people who could not come on the weekends or on weekdays after work before the range closed for the day. For the past couple of years the range has been open late on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. year-round.

As of December 1, 2009, the Busch Shooting Range will change its hours as follows:

December 1 through March 31 we will be open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 1 through November 30 we will be open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at www.mdc.mo.gov/area/stlouis and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.

Jay Henges Shooting Range
and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049
Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

For reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.
Visit http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges/

10 Shotshell Reloading Made Easy

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Due to the rising cost of shotshell ammunition, you may want to learn the inexpensive process of reloading shotgun shells using simple equipment. The technique is easy and will save you money over the cost of factory ammunition. This is a hands-on learning class; we'll produce quality shotshells with low-cost equipment. Class is limited to 12. (Reservations begin January 10.)

12 Holiday – Range Closed

18 Discover Nature – Women:

DISCOVER Introduction to Handguns

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Join us for a hands-on look at various types of handguns. We'll provide examples to study and learn the working mechanisms of revolvers, semiautomatics, and some others. We'll discuss caliber and ammunition selection. This course is a good opportunity to "decide before you buy." There is no range time involved in this introductory program. (Reservations begin January 18.)

27 Antler Scoring

Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(All ages) Now that your antlers have dried for the required 60 days, it's time to check the official score of that big rack. We will have official scorers for MO Show-Me Big Bucks along with Pope & Young and Boone & Crocket scorers. You may also bring shed antlers to be scored. Antlers do not have to be from this past season; any previous rack can be scored. Bring your antlers to the Education Center this Saturday and see what your deer scores! (No reservations required.)



NOTICE: The rifle/pistol range is currently closed and under construction. All other ranges are still open. We expect to reopen the rifle/pistol range by September 1, 2010. Progress reports will be included over the next several months including a reopen date.

If you would like more information please visit our website at www. mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges or call the range office at 636-938-9548.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

6 & 7 Scout Discovery Table: Careers/ Area Info (Self-guided exhibit)

Saturday & Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(All ages) Check out the many opportunities in the field of conservation and pick up information about conservation areas in your backyard. Designed for **Junior Girl Scouts** to accomplish *Let's Get Outdoors: Your Outdoor Surroundings #7* and for **Cub Scout Bears** to accomplish Achievements #5 c and d of *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (No reservations required.)

10 Discover Nature – Women: "Show Me" Quilts!

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 14 & up) Sew it and show it in the true "Show Me" state fashion! Spend the



afternoon at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park and explore a few of Missouri's state symbols with a focus on the three-toed box turtle. Afterwards, get ready to construct your own box turtle appliqué. There will be a short list of items you will need to bring. The list will be sent to you after registration. We will meet at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park.

Experienced and inexperienced quilters are all encouraged to attend. The appliqué process will be taught and constructed in class. All sewing will be done at home on your own sewing machine. Sewing machine demonstrations will be done in class.

This will be the last class offered in a four-part series. Even if you did not attend the last three sessions, you will not be behind in learning this machine appliqué technique. Everyone is welcome. This program will be held at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park is located at 800 Guy Park Drive in Wildwood, Missouri 63005. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult (Reservations begin January 27 by calling Powder Valley at 314-301-1500.)

10 Feeding Frenzy!

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Families with children ages 5 & up) Have you ever seen a snake swallow its lunch whole or watched as a snapping turtle snaps up its dinner? Both are pretty amazing sights.

Come watch as we feed some of the critters kept at Powder Valley. Learn more about predator/prey relationships and the feeding habits of some of Missouri's animals. (Reservations begin January 27.)



11 Homeschool: A Sense of Place, Nature Mapping

Thursday 9:30 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 7 – 12) Maps help people to get from one place to another by the shortest possible route. A sense of place map is a birds eye view of a place showing its shape and features. The map tells a story of geography, topography, geology, plants, and animals. We will meet at Powder Valley for orientation, and then, in your own cars, drive to Emmenegger Nature Park. Please bring a snack for the trail. (Reservations begin January 28.)



13 How Wildlife Weathers Winter

Saturday 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

(Ages 7-12) Winter in Missouri can be cold, stormy, and icy. A few months ago many kinds of animals were here enjoying our lush summertime. What are all those animals doing now? Some have migrated; a few have hibernated – but what about all the others? We consider eight different strategies wild animals use for weathering winter, and illustrate them with activities and crafts. (Reservations begin January 28.)

18 Squirrelly Squirrels!

Thursday 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Ages 3 – 6) Squirrels are animals that we can see year-round in our backyards. Let's learn all about the life of a squirrel through story, game, and song, and take a hike to view them in the wild. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin February 4.)



Volunteer Milestones

Bill Busby 300 hours Joan Hummel 4000 hours Bernadette Sieving 1250 hours

February 2010

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east to Kirkwood, take S. Kirkwood Road (Route 61/67). Follow Route 61/67 to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/



19 Discover Nature - Families: **Twittering with the Coyotes**

Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



(Families) Coyotes have their own system of communication and a strict pack hierarchy. Learn the language of these "song dogs" as well as behaviors, adaptations, and identification techniques. Coyotes share our communities and play an important role in the food chain. Come ready for a howling good time through discussion and activities both indoors and outside! (Reservations begin February 4.)

February Hallway Exhibit

Christopher Klinckhardt

Powder Valley welcomes a new exhibitor to our Hallway Exhibits. Christopher Klinckhardt has been interested in taking pictures since he was a child. The last few years Chris has devoted much effort and many hours taking classes to learn more about digital photography and how to improve his skills.



Chris has lived in the St. Louis area his entire life, although he and his wife travel whenever they have the opportunity. The both enjoy nature and often visit different parks during their leisure time.

Chris can be contacted at cklinckhardt@att.net.

Forest Park Office
5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulivard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

Sensational Animals Series

First Tuesday of the Month (February – May) 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 5 – 8) Welcome to the wonderful world of Missouri's wild animals! Throughout this series we will explore animal senses. Without senses, animals would not be able to see, hear, feel, smell or taste. Learn how animals use each sense and how these special senses help them to survive. This series will be held February through May, the first Tuesday of the month, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Participants may sign up for all four classes or each class individually. Each class will include an interactive activity, game and/or take home craft. (Reservations begin January 12.)

2 I Spy: Animal Sight

Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 5 - 8) For most of us the sense of sight is our most dominant sense. Let's look at how insects, frogs, rabbits, owls, and covotes use their sense of sight to adapt to their environment. Each has different ways of using this sense, whether night or day. This program will be held outdoors, so dress for the weather. Meet at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor & Education Center in Forest Park and come see what all the fun is about! (Reservations begin January 12.)

Upcoming

March 2 Listen: Animal Sound April 6 We Get the Feeling: Animal Touch May 4 Mmm Mmm Good: Animal Smell & Taste